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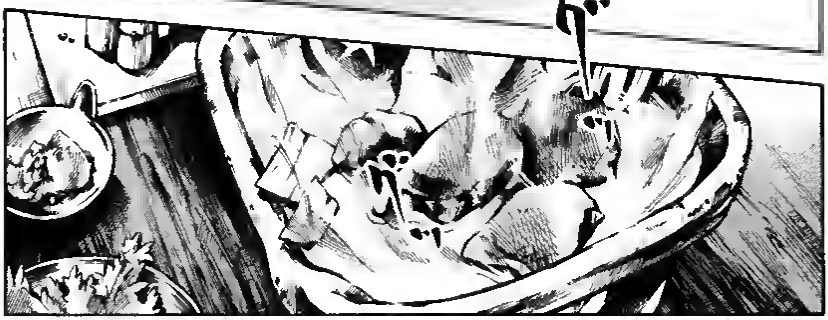
THE 151ST WAY: ADVANCE



OH,
THEY'RE DOING GREAT.

KENGO PRACTICES LIKE CRAZY AT THE NISSHINKAN EVERY DAY.

I'VE GOT A SOUVENIRE FOR YOU.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YEAH. SPAR WITH HIM FOR ME NEXT TIME YOU SEE HIM.
HAS HE GOTTEN STRONGER?
HERE.
BUT SHE RELUCTANTLY AGREED WHEN I SAID I'D "GIVE IT TO GENTAROU."
SHE DIDN'T WANT IT TAKEN BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID THAT IT'D STEAL HER SOUL,

...KIKUNO...
YEAH.
WELL?
GROWN INTO A REAL CUTEY, RIGHT?
WE'VE GOT TO BRING BACK JIROBEE'S BONES, RIGHT...?
I WANNA TAKE OUT OUR ENEMIES AND GET BACK TO AIZU.

CHOUSHUU'S ON THE ATTACK.
SHOUTAROU.
SIR.
YES.
WE'VE MADE PREPARA-TIONS.
I WAS SUMMONED TO KYOTO ALL OF A SUDDEN BECAUSE THERE'S GOING TO BE A WAR, AND THAT'S THAT.
IF WE CAN'T JUST STRIKE DOWN CHOUSHUU, THINGS WILL CALM DOWN.
THIS IS A CRITICAL MOMENT BOTH FOR THE SHOGUNATE AND FOR AIZU.

HUMPH.
TO ME, IT FEELS LIKE THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ELSE
OH MY.
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN SUCH A LONG TIME, BUT ALL YOUR TALK IS SO GLOOMY.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHY NOT ENJOY A KYOTO NIGHT, KANBEE? AT LEAST FOR TONIGHT?
I'LL GIVE BLOWING IN THE KYOTO WIND A SHOT.

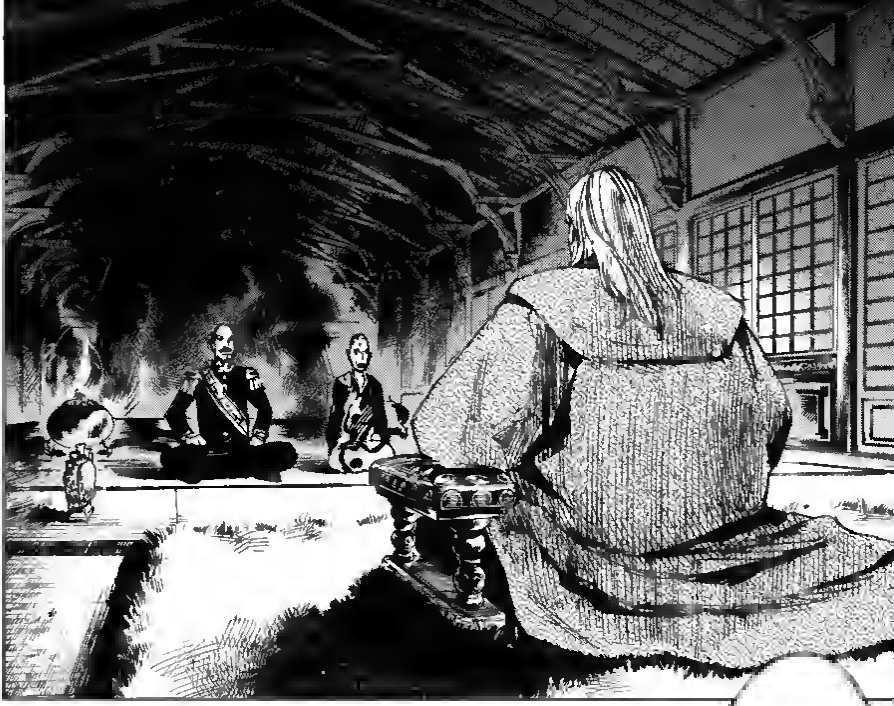
BY THE WAY, YOU TWO, ANY BABIES YET?
MARRIED COUPLES MAKE BABIES, DON'T THEY?
SAY, MOZU,
HAVE A HEALTHY BOY FOR AIZU.
KANBEE,
WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?

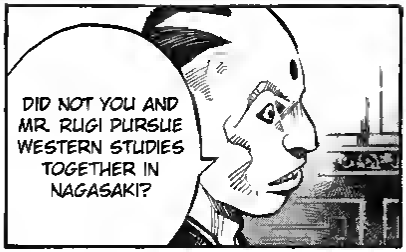
HM...
IS THAT SO?
I HAD THOUGHT
THAT I WOULD AWAIT YOUR PERMISSION BEFORE HAVING CHILDREN.
THEN YOU HAVE IT!
STRIVE FROM THIS DAY FORTH!
GAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA HAHA!
SO HE SAYS.

I WONDER IF THE SNOW'S MELTED YET?
MOUNT BANDAI...

Kurama

OH-HO.
SAKUMA SHOUZAN HAS BEEN CUT DOWN...?

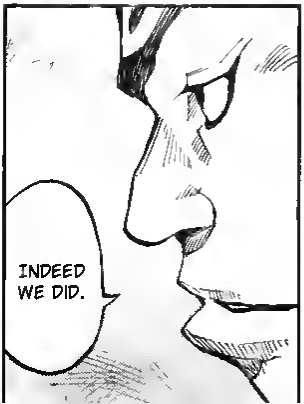



DID NOT YOU AND MR. RUGI PURSUE WESTERN STUDIES TOGETHER IN NAGASAKI?

IT HARDLY SEEMS SANE TO WALK KYOTO UNDEFENDED NOW. BUT...

CERTAINLY, SHOUZAN HAD LEARNING.

OH-HO


INDEED WE DID.

HE IMAGINED THAT A PERSON CAN EASILY CURE SOCIETY JUST BY HAVING WESTERN-INFLUENCED SCHOLARSHIP.
WESTERN MEDICINE SAYS THAT IF THE HEAD HURTS, TREAT THE HEAD,
IF THE FOOT HURTS, TREAT THE FOOT.
THAT'S WRONG.
WITHOUT CORRECTING THE FLOW OF KI, THERE IS NO REAL CURE.
IN EASTERN WISDOM, IF THE HEAD HURTS, YOU START TREATMENT FROM THE FOOT.
THE SAME IS TRUE IN GOVERNMENT...

EVIL KI IS NOW CONCENTRATED HERE IN KYOTO.
BUT WE MUST NOT BE CAUGHT UP IN IT.

ONCE THE EVIL KIS HAVE ANNIHILATED EACH OTHER, WHO WILL SURVIVE?

THE TRUE CURE BEGINS ONCE WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT FLOW.

THEY HAVE PITCHED CAMP AT FUSHIMI, YAMASAKI AND SAGA.

WHAT OF CHOU-SHUU'S MOVE-MENTS?
KIRITAKE,

THEY HAVE ALREADY SURROUNDED KYOTO.
Tenryuuji

DAMN YOU! WHERE DID YOUR CHOUSHUU MAN'S SPIRIT GO?!
TO FALL INTO LINE WITH THE WEAKLINGS AT HEADQUARTERS?!
YOU SAY TO RETREAT AFTER WE HAVE COME THIS FAR?!

IS IT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK...?
THEN STEEL YOUR-SELF!

KATSURA,
DO YOU FEAR TO DIE?

NO.
I WOULD NEVER...

WE CAN ONLY AD-VANCE!